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**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**DATE: October 4, 2000

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FAX #: 312-886-0747TO: Mr. Thomas Martin

RECIPIENT

PHONE #: 312-886-4273COMPANY: United States Environmental Protection AgencyFROM: Ruberia M. SaielliSENDER PHONE # (312) 245-8769TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 3

**MESSAGE:** Attached is a newspaper article from The Herald, Cahokia-Dupo, dated Wednesday, October 4, 2000. I note that you are quoted in the article as saying on Thursday (I assume from the date of the article that the reporter was referring to Thursday, September 28, 2000) that you had not heard anything from Saugel concerning the cell. I was wondering whether you were misquoted in the article.

I look forward to talking with you and Mike McAteer further tomorrow regarding the Village of Saugel's concerns about the containment cell. Please let me know what time you are available. I have just found out that I need to leave the office by 5:00 p.m. to catch a plane out of town for business, but any time in the afternoon before then, I am available.

**IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
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*The Herald*  
Cahokia-Dupo

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

# Sauget officials question landfill plan

## *Solutia, EPA plan to bury Dead Creek sediments in cell*

BY JASON WHITE  
Managing Editor

Sauget officials are having second thoughts about the construction of what a village attorney called a "man-made pollution."

At the Cahokia town hall meeting last Tuesday, village attorney Dan Hayes told U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives that "the village is not convinced that a containment cell is the best way to go."

Hayes then said the EPA would be hearing from the village and left the meeting.

He was referring to a 26-foot high landfill on the Cahokia-Sauget border that would store 50,000 cubic yards of sediments from Dead Creek, which is contaminated with PCBs, heavy metals and other toxins. The EPA on May 31 ordered Solutia to remove the sediments and build the landfill, which will be a permanent addition to the landscape.

"It may be a real eyesore," village attorney Bernie Youssa said in an interview. "It may have other problems which may affect the village's

residents with respect to the value of their properties. We're not opposing it outright, we're just a little concerned that we need to think this out a little more."

"We just don't want to be rushed into it. The basic idea is if you're removing something that's bad, if you take it away and we never see it again, that's better than keeping it and enclosing it."

"We're basically requesting that Solutia meet with us again concerning this matter to allay some of the concerns that have been expressed by residents of the village," he said. "We feel that we owe it to the residents to investigate this thing more thoroughly to be able to intelligently respond to inquiries that we're getting. Frankly, maybe we could have found out earlier, but we need to find out regardless."

Tom Martin, an associate regional counsel for the EPA, said Thursday he had not heard anything from Sauget concerning the cell.

"We anticipated they would be interested in this project from very

early on. We instructed Solutia and Minnchem to make contacts with the village of Sauget and explain the intentions of the project," he said.

The landfill was described in detail in the May 31 order, Martin said. There also was a public meeting at Sauget Village Hall in March to explain the project.

"A lot of time and effort has gone into notifying interested parties of what we're doing," Martin said.

Remedial project manager Mike McAttee also seemed surprised by Hayes' comments.

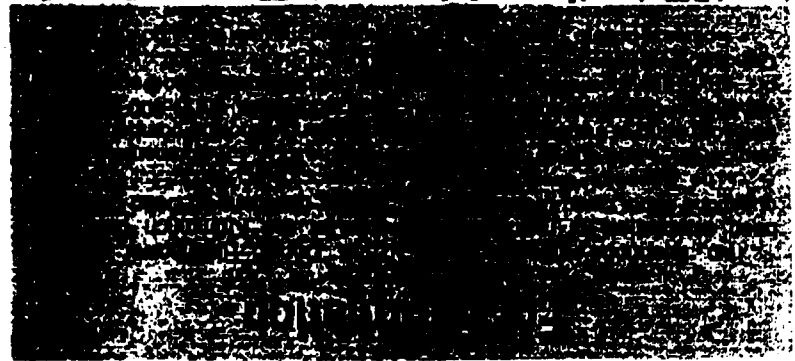
"I didn't know there was a problem," he said after the town meeting. "We want to address any concerns they have."

But he added that "we would hate to put the brakes on something we feel pretty strongly about."

Work to start pumping water out of the creek to prepare the sediments for storage will begin in a few weeks.

A \$3 million study funded by Solutia is now complete. A report summarizing the study will be available at Cahokia Public Library in January.

The study found low levels of dis-



ins and PCBs in resident yards, but the levels were not high enough to warrant emergency removal action, McAteer said. There is no risk to human health from the contamination, according to the EPA.

Groundwater is heavily contaminated near disposal sites but shows low levels of contamination in residential areas, he said.

"The big concern we have is if it (the groundwater) is having any ill effect on the Mississippi River," McAteer said.

Gohmert's human and ecological risk assessment and engineering department study will be issued next year.

we would have gotten nothing done," the conclusion that without the EPA, Dead Creek," King said. "We came to been to getting something done on."

"We're closer now than we've ever beenly taking action on Dead Creek," thanked the EPA and said he is thankful to the EPA and said he is thankful to the EPA.

Former Capitol Mayor Mike King said flooding.

also is replacing two culverts to prevent flooding.

near the Mississippi River. The EPA drums from a former dumping site tons of soil and 2,500 waste-filled drums from the EPA removed 17,000 cleanup plan.

Last fall, the EPA removed 17,000 drums from the EPA will replace a